

Tobacco Use

Smoking can cause many health problems such as chronic lung disease, coronary heart disease, and stroke, as well as cancer of the lungs, larynx, esophagus, mouth, and bladder. Smoking also contributes to cancer of the cervix, pancreas, and kidneys. Of course, the harmful effects of smoking do not end with the smoker. The health of nonsmokers is adversely affected by environmental tobacco smoke (ETS). Each year, exposure to ETS causes an estimated 3,000 nonsmoking Americans to die of lung cancer and up to 300,000 children to suffer from lower respiratory tract infections. According to the Surgeon General's report, tobacco use causes more than 430,000 deaths and costs approximately \$50-\$70 billion annually in medical expenses alone. Over the past 20 years, tobacco use has remained the single most preventable cause of death and disease in the United States. Reducing tobacco use will dramatically improve peoples' quality of life and significantly reduce the burden of tobacco-related diseases on the health care system.

Current Smoker

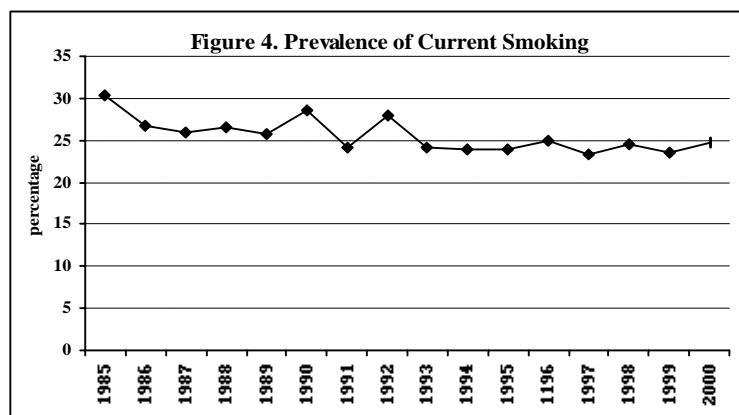
much more current smoking than females, and white respondents showed a significantly higher percentage of current smokers than blacks. Of the four race-gender groups, only 12.7 percent of black female respondents were current smokers, a figure much lower than that of the other groups. At 24.9 percent, white females reported the second least amount of current smoking, but their rate was almost twice that of black females. The overall trend for current smoking in South Carolina has dropped from 30.3 percent in 1985 to 24.9 percent in 2000.

Smoking at Home

About 29 percent of South Carolina adults said that they smoked at home, with males reporting slightly more at-home smoking than females. With a prevalence of 29.6 percent, whites reported slightly more at-home smoking than blacks (27.7 percent). As a group, black males, at 33.1 percent, had the highest rate of smoking at home. At 29.9 percent and 29.4 percent respectively, white males and females had similar rates of smoking at home. Black females, at 23.5 percent, reported the lowest percentage of at-home smoking.

Tried to Quit Smoking

Of the BRFSS participants who smoked, 44 percent said they had tried to quit smoking for at least one day within the previous year. Almost 45 percent of female participants tried to quit smoking, compared to 43.2 percent of males. Blacks reported more attempts to quit smoking than whites by five percentage points. White males, at 41.6 percent, reported the lowest percentage of attempts to quit smoking of all race-gender groups, while black females, at 48.1 percent, reported the highest.



Health People 2010 Objective

Reduce Tobacco Use (Cigarette Smoking) by adults to 12% (SC, 2000=24.9%)

Table 4. Prevalence of Current Cigarette Smoking, and Attempted to Quit Smoking, 2000

	Current Cigarette Smoking			Smoking at Home			Try to Quit Smoking		
	%	95% CI		%	95% CI		%	95% CI	
Overall	24.9	23.1	26.7	29.1	27.3	31.0	44.0	39.2	48.8
Sex									
Male	28.7	25.7	31.6	30.5	27.7	33.4	43.2	36.1	50.2
Female	21.5	19.4	23.6	27.8	25.5	30.2	44.9	38.6	51.2
Race									
White	26.7	24.6	28.8	29.6	27.6	31.7	42.6	37.8	47.4
Black	19.1	15.2	23.0	27.7	23.6	31.7	47.6	33.0	62.3
Race and Sex									
White Male	28.6	25.3	31.8	29.9	26.8	33.1	41.6	34.8	48.4
White Female	24.9	22.3	27.5	29.4	26.7	32.1	43.6	36.8	50.4
Black Male	27.7	20.4	35.0	33.1	26.0	40.3	47.4	26.5	68.3
Black Female	12.7	9.1	16.3	23.5	18.9	28.1	48.1	29.9	66.2
Age									
18-24	31.7	25.9	37.5	35.5	29.6	41.4	63.7	50.7	76.7
25-34	27.3	22.9	31.8	29.9	25.6	34.2	51.9	42.2	61.6
35-44	32.3	28.0	36.7	31.3	27.3	35.4	37.7	27.2	48.2
45-54	24.0	20.3	27.6	30.6	26.6	34.7	37.3	28.3	46.3
55-64	21.0	16.8	25.2	28.2	23.3	33.0	31.4	20.1	42.8
65 +	11.1	7.9	14.3	19.4	15.4	23.3	47.9	30.1	65.7
Education									
<High School	32.5	27.3	37.7	38.6	33.3	43.9	42.7	32.5	52.9
HS graduate	27.6	24.5	30.6	35.3	31.9	38.7	42.4	35.1	49.8
Some College	27.3	23.2	31.3	27.9	24.2	31.5	47.2	36.8	57.6
College graduate	15.0	12.5	17.5	17.7	14.9	20.5	44.1	33.3	55.0
House Hold Income									
<\$25,000	30.7	27.0	34.5	37.5	33.6	41.4	50.3	41.6	58.9
\$25,000-\$49,999	26.5	23.3	29.7	31.4	28.2	34.5	40.3	33.2	47.4
\$50,000-\$74,999	24.7	19.5	29.9	24.9	20.2	29.6	44.1	27.9	60.4
\$75,000+	14.7	11.0	18.5	17.3	12.9	21.7	31.7	16.8	46.6
Employment									
Employed	27.6	25.2	29.9	31.0	28.7	33.4	41.7	35.9	47.5
Unemployed	33.2	23.4	43.0	35.9	25.9	46.0	50.6	30.8	70.4
Others	15.7	12.9	18.5	20.5	17.4	23.6	48.2	37.0	59.3
Unable to work	30.3	22.7	37.8	42.3	33.7	51.0	50.7	35.1	66.3